

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-41. (canceled)

1
42. (currently amended): An isolated nucleic acid molecule which comprises a nucleotide sequence that

(a) encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or a variant thereof at least 90% identical thereto and having only conservative amino acid substitutions, which variant is immunoreactive with at least one antibody raises antibodies that specifically binds bind an extracellular region of the protein consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; or

(b) encodes a protein encoded by a cDNA contained in the plasmid designated p24P4C12-GTE5 deposited with American Type Culture Collection as Designation No. 207129;

(c) encodes a protein encoded by a cDNA contained in the plasmid designated p24P4C12-GTE9 deposited with American Type Culture Collection as Designation No. 207084; or

(d) comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide residue number 6 through nucleotide residue number 2138 or a full length variant of said nucleotide sequence from positions 6-2138 that hybridizes to the complement of said nucleotide sequence under stringent conditions correcting to wash at 0.1 x SSC containing EDTA at 55°C; or

(d) comprises a nucleotide sequence complementary to the entire length of the nucleotide sequences designated in paragraphs (a)-(d) paragraphs (a)-(c).

2
43. (currently amended): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 42 which comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or a variant thereof at least 90% identical thereto and having only conservative amino acid substitutions, which variant is immunoreactive with at least one antibody raises antibodies that specifically binds bind an extracellular region of the protein consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, or a complement of said nucleotide sequence over its entire length.

3 44. (previously presented): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 43 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or a complement of said nucleotide sequence over its entire length.

4 45. (previously presented): The nucleic acid of claim 42 which comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes a protein encoded by a cDNA contained in the plasmid designated p24P4C12-GTE5 deposited with American Type Culture Collection as Designation No. 207129 or a complement of said nucleotide sequence over its entire length.

5 46. (previously presented): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 42 which comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes a protein encoded by a cDNA contained in the plasmid designated p24P4C12-GTE9 deposited with American Type Culture Collection as Designation No. 207084 or a complement of said nucleotide sequence over its entire length.

47. (canceled)

6 48. (previously presented): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 47 which comprises SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide residue number 6 through nucleotide residue number 2138 or a complement of said nucleotide sequence over its entire length.

7 49. (previously presented): A recombinant expression system which comprises the nucleotide sequence contained in the nucleic acid molecule of claim 42 operably linked to control sequences for expression.

8 50. (previously presented): Recombinant host cells comprising the expression system of claim 49.

9 51. (previously presented): A method to produce a protein having the characteristics of 24P4C12 which method comprises culturing the cells of claim 50 under conditions for expression, and optionally recovering said protein.